

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An optical lens ~~formed from~~ comprising:
an optical material comprising an SiC single crystal having a cubic structure ~~as an~~
~~optical material~~.

Claim 2 (original): An optical lens according to claim 1, wherein said optical lens has a flat objective surface and a convex spherical surface formed opposite to said flat objective surface.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A condenser lens comprising:
a first optical lens comprising an optical material comprising an SiC single crystal having a cubic structure; and
a second optical lens ~~arranged in this order from~~ positioned between said first optical lens and an objective surface so that the optical axes of said first and second optical lenses are in line with each other; ~~wherein at least said first optical lens is formed from an SiC single crystal having a cubic structure as an optical material~~.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An optical pickup comprising:
a light source; and
a condenser lens ~~for converging~~ configured to converge light emitted from said light source to form a beam spot, said condenser lens comprising a first optical lens and a second optical lens ~~arranged in this order from~~ positioned between said first optical lens and an objective surface so that the optical axes of said first and second optical lenses are in line with each other[[:]],

wherein said first optical lens ~~is formed from~~ comprises an optical material comprising an SiC single crystal having a cubic structure ~~as an optical material~~.

Claim 5 (original): An optical pickup according to claim 4, wherein said first optical lens has a flat objective surface and a convex spherical surface formed opposite to said flat objective surface.

Claim 6 (original): An optical pickup according to claim 4, wherein the wavelength of said light emitted from said light source is longer than 564 nm.

Claim 7 (original): An optical pickup according to claim 4, wherein said light source comprises a semiconductor laser.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An optical recording/reproducing apparatus comprising:

an optical pickup including a light source and a condenser lens ~~for converging~~ configured to converge light emitted from said light source to form a beam spot, said condenser lens including a first optical lens and a second optical lens ~~arranged in this order~~ from positioned between said first optical lens and an objective surface so that the optical axes of said first and second optical lenses are in line with each other; and

control drive means for controllably driving said condenser lens in a focusing direction and/or a tracking direction of an optical recording medium[;],

wherein said first optical lens ~~is formed from~~ comprises an optical material comprising an SiC single crystal having a cubic structure ~~as an optical material~~.

Claim 9 (original): An optical recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said first optical lens has a flat objective surface and a convex spherical surface formed opposite to said flat objective surface.

Claim 10 (original): An optical recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the wavelength of said light emitted from said light source is longer than 564 nm.

Claim 11 (original): An optical recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said light source comprises a semiconductor laser.

Claim 12 (original): An optical recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the light beam of said light emitted from said light source has an optical axis substantially parallel to the principal surface of said optical recording medium.

Claim 13 (original): An optical recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising means for mounting a plurality of optical recording media spaced from each other;

the spacing between adjacent ones of said optical recording media being larger than the diameter of the light beam of said light emitted from said light source.